

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 6-16 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 are amended and claim 5 is canceled.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wurster (US 5,564,954). Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wurster in view of Wieloch (US 6,031,723). Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wurster in view of Inagaki (US 5,837,155). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wurster in view of Inagaki, and further in view of McMonagle (US 4,533,035). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 2 include, among other limitations, "wherein a cross-sectional area of said introducing part is smaller than that of said pressure retaining part." Wurster does not teach the above limitations.

Rather, Wurster in FIG. 1 discloses a "compliant section 14 [having] an axis 20 and [having] a slot 22 extending along the axis and dividing the compliant section into laterally spaced (along lateral direction L) first and second beams 24, 26. Each beam has a middle portion 30, 32 that is designed to engage the walls of the hole, and although the hole walls are somewhat plastically deformed, they still resiliently press the middle portions closer together. The middle portions of the beams press outwardly against the hole walls, to provide a retention force whereby they resist pullout of the contact from the circuit board hole." (Col. 2, lines 41-51).

Additionally, as shown in FIG. 2, the beams 24, 26 of the contact provide "a pair of protuberances 40, 42 at the middle portions 30, 32 of the beams, with each protuberance extending towards the other beam. The contact is designed to be installed in the hole by downward force applied in the direction D against ledges 40 on a contact portion 42." (Col. 2, lines 53-57).

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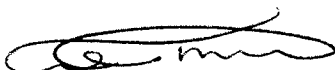
However, with respect to the contact shown in FIGs. 1 and 13 of Wurster, a cross-section area of a header contact 182 has the same size as that of a contact upper portion 202. In addition, the shapes of the beams 24 and 26 are symmetrical with respect to protuberances 40 and 42, and the shape of the slot 22 is also symmetrical with respect to protuberance 40 and 42. Therefore, in Wurster, the cross-sectional area of the lower side beam with respect to the protuberance has the same size as that of the upper side beam with respect to the protuberance.

In contrast, the present invention includes a cross-sectional area of the introducing part which is smaller than that of the pressure retaining part. Consequently, there is a substantial difference in the manner of generating "elastic force" between the press-fit section of the present inventions and the compliant section of Wurster, because the structure of the press-fit section of the present invention is different from the structure of the compliant section of Wurster.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that Wurster does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 or claim 2. Claims 3 and 6-16 depend on claims 1 and 2, respectively and thus are thus patentable over the cited references for the reasons set forth above, and for the extra limitation they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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